



INDIANA CRIMINAL JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Indiana and Disproportionate Minority Contact

The Indiana Disproportionality Committee (IDC) has been in existence since May of 2005. The committee is composed of representatives from various organizations and agencies that are located within the State of Indiana. Currently the main focus of the committee is disproportionality and overrepresentation within the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. However the committee has also branched out and recruited members from the Department of Education, Exceptional Learners Division, and the Indiana Mental Health Coalition. The committee strives to “create equality within the Indiana child welfare and juvenile justice systems and equalize the proportion of children of color in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems with their percentage of the overall population” (Scope, 2006). The entire committee meets every other month as a whole to provide each other with updates. A vast amount of the work is completed within three separate sub-committees. Thus far as a result of committee members’ diligent work the Indiana Disproportionality Committee has been able to create an in-depth annotated bibliography that will provide professionals and community members with resource tools; glossary of terms document that includes common words that tend to be used interchangeable but have different meanings; letter of interest to send to various entities across the state asking permission to schedule a training session; and the scope which encompasses a vision, mission, objectives and timeline.

January—February in Review

Since the first of the year the Indiana Disproportionality Committee has progressed very well. In January, committee members continued to work within their subcommittees to ensure that information was ready for presentations that were scheduled for mid-February. Prior to the committee’s first presentation the entire committee had a meeting to go over what exactly needed to be disseminated at each presentation due to time constraints. Committee members agreed that providing background information about the Indiana Disproportionality Committee and its members will illustrate the magnitude of seriousness to audience members. Another important aspect that committee members wanted to ensure that was included were straight, hard-hitting data that support the fact that overrepresentation and disproportionality exist in the child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

In the latter half of February the Indiana Disproportionality Committee had two scheduled presentations. The first one was on February 22, 2006 in front members of the Legislative Black Caucus. The second presentation was at the Indiana Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers Cultural Diversity Workshop on February 24, 2006. Both events passed well and gained support from audience members. At the Cultural Diversity workshop three individuals expressed an interest to host a training session while seven individuals wanted to be added to the distribution list.

Nonetheless, efforts to recruit additional stakeholders continues. ICJI will also be represented on the SOBY Outreach Committee which is also brainstorming alternatives to assist in the reduction of minorities being overrepresented in various realms. Additionally ICJI will be orientating New Life Worship Center, Indiana Civil Rights Commission, and Martin University to the Scope of the Indiana Disproportionality Committee anticipating that they will agree to be on the Committee. ICJI also has received a grant submission from Indiana University’s CEEP Center to assist with gathering data and analysis .

March Upcoming Events

March 3, 2006— Children’s Bureau, Inc:
Training at Family Place

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March 24, 2006— IDC Training for Members:
College Ave. Branch Library

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